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BULLETIN No. 91 DECEMBER 1976

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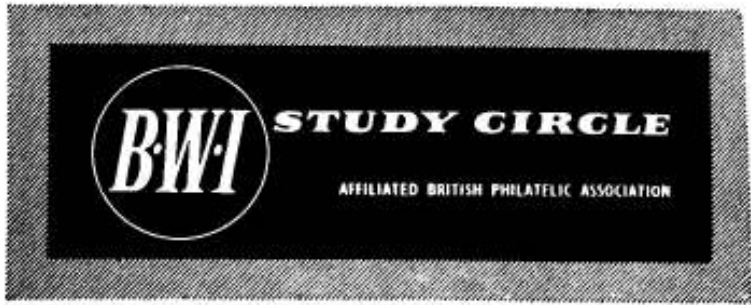
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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways. List supplied on application.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is **£2.50** or the equivalent in local currency, due **1st January**. If remitting in currency **please add 40c to cover collection charges**. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

PROGRAMME 1977

Wed., Jan. 19th, 6 p.m. Barbados to 1900 Basil B. Benwell

Thurs., March 10th, 6 p.m. Nine Pages from members.

Sat., April 16th, 3p.m. A.G.M. and Auction Sale

Meetings will be held at Stanley Gibbons Auction Room, Drury House, Russell St., London WC2

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Would members please note that the time of the evening meetings has been brought forward to 6 p.m.

The address of the Hon. Librarian, Stephen Papworth, is now Tir Nan Og, Pembroke Road, Manorbier, Dyfed, SA70 7SX.

About this time of year most society Treasurers issue appeals for prompt payment of subscriptions, and our own Treasurer is no exception. Regrettably these appeals usually go unheeded by a considerable number of members until well into the New year. If you are one of this number, your co-operation is earnestly requested. Not only can you make life easier for the treasurer, but you will also help save the Study Circle extra expense

SUBSCRIPTIONS (DUES)

These are payable on 1st January and full details appear under MEMBERSHIP at the foot of our 'shop window' page in every issue of the Bulletin. Will members who are accustomed to pay direct kindly note that reminder letters will no longer be sent out and in all instances where payment has not been received by mid-May the mailing of the June Bulletin will be delayed until a remittance comes to hand.

GRAHAM C. BARTLETT
Hon. Treasurer

BARBADOS

Tue following article first appeared in "The Bajan" magazine published in Barbados and is reproduced here by kind permission of the Editor and author.

There is still time to reconsider our 350th Anniversary celebrations and this time lets get

THE RIGHT SETTLEMENT DATE

By *PETER CAMPBELL*

The dates of certain historical events are known by many who would never call themselves historians. No Englishman is likely to slip up on the date of the battle of Hastings, and any Frenchman can tell you that the French Revolution started in 1789. Though the Americans have not been able to establish the date of the discovery of America itself, they still celebrate October 11th as a national holiday because it was on that day in 1492 that Columbus made his first landfall in the New World. In Barbados schoolchildren have been taught for many generations that the island was uninhabited when the first settlers arrived in 1627. It was therefore a shock when the Barbados Post Office issued a set of postage stamps in December, 1975 to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the event. How did this happen?

In the first years of the seventeenth century a small group of Englishmen established a settlement on the coast of Guiana, and in April, 1605 a ship, the name of which was probably the Olive Branch, left London with 67 Englishmen who were going to join the settlement. They had a difficult voyage across the Atlantic, and by the time they reached the Lesser Antilles their supplies of food and water were almost exhausted, so that they decided to call at St. Lucia for provisions. They were very soon attacked by the Caribs, who were the only inhabitants of the Island, and only 19 of the party escaped by boat to the Spanish Main; of these only 4 eventually reached England. The reason we know this is that one of the survivors, John Nicholl, published an account of his experiences in 1607. He made no mention of a call at Barbados. When the tale is repeated in a book of travel stories by a man called Purchas twenty years later a call at Barbados has been included and the name of the ship is given as the 'Oliph Blossome'

The book entitled the 'Memoirs of the First Settlement' was published in 1741 and purported to be based on ancient records taken from some of the first settlers, the last of whom had died in 1688 at the age of 82. Here also the date of the first landing is given as 1605, but the account differs materially from those of John Nicholl and Purchas. The ship is called the Olive and it was returning to England from a voyage in Guiana. It landed men near what is now Holetown, where they set up a cross and inscribed on a tree 'James K: of E: and of this Island'. A further landing was made at Indian River (on the coast just north of the Bridgetown Harbour), and they 'left there also some marks of their possession for the Crown of England'. The ship then went to St. Kitts, where it found 28 Englishmen and 5 women.

This landing could not possibly have taken place in 1605 for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that St. Kitts was uninhabited except by Caribs until Thomas Warner landed there in 1623. It is now clear that the authors got their facts substantially right but got the date wrong; and the reference to the Olive suggests that they knew of Purchas' book and adjusted the story to suit. In spite of its inconsistencies this story was accepted and repeated, with minor variations, for almost two centuries, and on the basis of it the tercentenary of the first landing of Englishmen in Barbados was celebrated in 1905 by the issue of an Olive Blossom stamp and the erection of monuments at Holetown and Indian River.

It is, of course, impossible to state categorically that Englishmen did not land in Barbados to 1605 or earlier. The existence of Barbados was known in the early years of the sixteenth century, at which time it had Amerindian inhabitants. Undoubtedly it was visited by the Spaniards, and it is alleged that a Portuguese vessel left pigs on the island; there were certainly plenty of them when the English arrived to settle it. By the middle of the sixteenth century the island seems to have been uninhabited. We now come to the year 1625, when the recorded history of Barbados can be said to begin. By a fortunate accident we have first-hand evidence of what happened. The reason is that one of the persons most involved was Sir William Courteen. It was he and his associates who sent out the first settlers, but through the duplicity of Charles I, who succeeded to the English throne in 1625, he was not allowed to reap the benefit. Legal proceedings continued for many years, and the depositions of those involved, as well as other contemporary documents, give us a fairly accurate picture of the chain of events.

We know a lot about Sir William Courteen. His parents were Flemish Protestants who fled from the Spanish Netherlands to England to escape persecution. William and his brother Peter were both born in England and they were both knighted by James I. After their father's death in 1606 the sons formed a company which traded all over the world and owned a fleet of about 20 ships. The company had a branch in Holland, and it was this which eventually contributed largely to its collapse. In 1631 the firm was reputed to be worth 150,000 pounds; when William died five years later his debts were 146,000 pounds.

To return to our story, a ship belonging to Sir William Courteen and commanded by John Powell did call at Barbados in 1625. The date is sometimes given as 1624, but under the old calendar the New Year began on March 25th, so that what we call March 24th, 1625 was called March 24th, 1624; and it has been assumed that the visit took place early in 1625. Richard Ligon, who heard the story from early settlers when he was in Barbados from 1647 to 1650, says that the ship was returning from a trading voyage to Pernambuco and put in to Barbados because it encountered bad weather. Another account 20 years later says that the ship first called at Oistins and then visited all the bays on the south and west coasts of the Island. For the story of the landings at Holetown and Indian River and the inscription on the tree the only authority is the *Memoirs of the First Settlement*, but there are no grounds for doubting it.

After leaving Barbados John Powell called at St. Kitts, and from there he returned to England, where he gave such a favourable report on Barbados to his employer, Sir William Courteen, that the latter decided to establish a settlement there. The first expedition returned to England because of 'an accident at sea', which may have meant

the capture of a prize, but the second expedition, in the William and John, commanded by John Powell's brother Henry, arrived in Barbados on or about February 17th, 1627. In some accounts the number of settlers carried on this ship is given as about 80, and in others as low as 40 or 50. The Tercentenary of the first settlement of the island was celebrated in Barbados on February 17th, 1927 when a commemorative stamp bearing the head of Charles I was issued.

Now, in December 1975 we have an issue of commemorative stamps each bearing the words '350th anniversary of the first settlement 1625-1975'. To make matters worse, the stamps themselves contain several inaccuracies. They can be bought as a set of four within an illustrated border which shows in the background a ship and in the foreground three men raising a flag on the shore. The four cents stamp also shows a ship flying flags. All the flags - on the stamp and on the border - have three horizontal stripes, and those on the stamp, which are in colour, are unmistakably Dutch flags. The only writer who mentions a visit by a Dutch ship - he actually says 'some Dutch vessels' - is Schomburgk, whose book was published in 1848. His account of the visit of John Powell and of the arrival of the William and John with the first settlers (for which he gives the date February 17th, 1625) is full of inaccuracies and inconsistencies, and he found himself having to assume that John Powell's ship 'sailed under Dutch protection to Brazil' because a Dutch expedition occupied the Portuguese port of Bahia from May 1624 until early 1625, when they were driven out again by the Portuguese. It will be remembered that Ligon stated specifically that John Powell's ship was returning from Pernambuco, which was never at this period in Dutch occupation.

It is interesting that we know exactly what flags both John Powell's ship and the William and John should have been flying. In 1603 James VI of Scotland became also James I of England, and though the union of the two countries did not take place until 1707 James issued a proclamation that 'henceforth all our subjects of this Isle and Kingdom of Greater Britain and the members thereof shall bear in their Maintop the red cross commonly called St. George's cross, and the white cross, commonly called St. Andrew's cross, joined together according to a form made by our heralds, and sent to us by our admiral to be published to our said subjects; and in their fore-top our subjects of south Britain shall wear the red cross only, as they were wont, and our subjects of north Britain in their fore-top the white cross as they were accustomed'.

Of the other three stamps in the set, the portrait of John Powell on the one dollar stamp is, of course, wrong if the stamp is intended to commemorate the first settlement instead of the visit in 1625. On the twenty-five cents stamp is what is described as 'Ogilvy's Map'. This map was published in 1670 by John Ogilvy, King's Cosmographer and Geographic Printer, who always spelt his name in English with a 'b', though admittedly in the Latin dedication on the map itself it is spelt with a 'v', or rather a 'u'.

The ten cents stamp depicts the Bearded Fig Tree, from which Barbados traditionally got its name. Not many people believe this story today, and there are reasons for thinking that the theory is wrong, but so far nobody has produced a more convincing theory as to the origin of the island's name.

All in all, those responsible for the recent commemorative issue have done a poor job and made themselves the laughing stock of the island, as well as of those who try to

learn about a country's history from its stamps. Those who can believe that Barbados was settled by a Dutch ship in 1625 can believe almost anything. Perhaps it is time we started checking up on that other story, which has received such widespread publicity, about a man called Christopher Columbus discovering a New World in 1492.

Tony Shepherd, writing in the *Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society's* excellent new handbook on B.W.I. civilian censorship, classifies the handstamps and labels of the Barbados Censor. The following three covers, all bearing "P.C.90" labels of type L5 should add to recorded data:

1. Airmail to Trinidad, 4d rate, postmarked 3 August 1943, Examiner H/15 (New EKD)
2. Airmail to Trinidad, 4d rate, postmarked 11 November 1943, Examiner 11/26 (New number).
3. Airmail Trinidad to Barbados, 5c rate, postmarked 29 April 1944, Examiner H/18 (new number)

Michael Medlicott

BRITISH WEST INDIES

A THEMATIC LOOK AT SOME US BI-CENTENNIAL ISSUES.

During 1970 a number of Islands in the BWI, along with many other countries, are issuing stamps to commemorate the US bicentennial. Many of the stamps illustrate ships of the period and I feel that their interest is enhanced if something is known about the ships concerned. Some may say that an article on ships has no place in a serious philatelic journal, but I hope that a few notes on just some of the designs may prove to be of interest to the majority.

The HANNAH (St. Lucia ½c), a 78 ton schooner armed with 4x4 pounders was the first armed vessel to sail under Continental pay and control and was taken over on 24 August 1775. She was the beginning of a small fleet fitted out by George Washington to aid in the siege of Boston. Her first Captain was an Army Officer! After some initial success the HANNAH was driven ashore by a British sloop and though saved from destruction had to be decommissioned.

In 1775 John Paul Jones, then a newly commissioned Lieutenant, was appointed to the 24 gun sloop ALFRED (Grenada Grenadines \$1), the BLACK PRINCE before being bought into the Navy. Two years later, John Paul Jones by then a Captain is said to have been the first to fly the new "Stars and Stripes" onboard the sloop RANGER (Antigua \$5) while she was at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, shortly after the flag was adopted by the Continental Congress in June 1777. On 14 February 1778 the RANGER exchanged salutes with a French Squadron in Quiberon Bay, the French replying with 11 guns the number then accorded to a Republic. It was in fact an acknowledgement of American Independence, Jones writing "I am happy on having seen the American Flag for the first time recognised in the fullest and completest manner by the Flag of

France". In the RANGER he raided British shipping so successfully that he was branded as a pirate: at home he was given command of better (sic) ship - a condemned East Indiaman which he renamed the BONHOMME RICHARD. After another successful cruise he was brought to action off Flamborough Head in September 1779 by the Frigate HMS SERAPHIS (St. Lucia 35c). Also present at this action was the 36 gun Frigate ALLIANCE (St. Lucia \$1).

Two years later HMS TREPASY, a brig of 14 guns, in company with HMS ATALANTA sighted a strange sail one May morning and immediately gave chase but soon found that their quarry was a much larger ship, in fact the ALLIANCE. In the ensuing action (Virgin Islands 75c) the TREPASY was captured losing 6 killed and 11 wounded from her small crew.

The RANDOLPH (St. Lucia 50c) was the first of 13 frigates built for the Continental Navy. The 32 gun ship sailed from Philadelphia in February 1777 manned by a crew of 330 and under command of Captain Nicholas Diddle. During the next twelve months the ship had a successful career against "enemy" (for British readers: That's "us"!) shipping before being blown up when during a short but furious battle against HMS YARMOUTH, a shot entered her magazine. A similar frigate, the "RALEIGH" (Virgin Islands 40C), also took several prizes off the North American coast in 1777 and off the French coast captured HMS DRUID. In turn she was lost when run aground near Boston to escape capture after a nine hour fight with two British warships.

Of the various Privateers shown, perhaps the most successful was the HAZARD (Virgin Islands 8c), a 16 gun brig from Massachusetts. Amongst her successes was the capture of the brig HMS ACTIVE off St. Thomas on 16 March 1779 after an action lasting 37 minutes. She was burnt in the Penobscot on 14 August 1779 to prevent capture by a British squadron. The MONTGOMERY (Antigua \$1), a Rhode Island ship of 16 guns, and the SPY (Virgin Islands 22c), from Connecticut, both captured several British merchant ships in the West Indies with cargoes of coffee, rum, sugar and wine.

HMS EDWARD (St. Lucia 2c) is a slight misnomer since this ship was never officially entered into the Navy List. However, be that as it may, on 7 April 1776 Captain John Berry of the Continental Navy brig LEXINGTON was able to report "..... met with the sloop EDWARD belonging to the LIVERPOOL frigate. She engaged us near two hours. We shattered her in a terrible manner" After repairs the LEXINGTON was soon at sea again and Captain Hammon of HMS ROEHUCK, a 44 gun frigate, (Grenada Grenadines 2c), leading a group of British frigates patrolling the Delaware reported to his Admiral that "the rebel brig (LEXINGTON) kept just out of gun range and that when our ships started to chase her, she would navigate close to the coast where the water was not deep enough to follow!"

The fight off the Azores between the PO Packet HINCHINBROOK under Captain James, and a 310 ton Salem built privateer GRAND TURK took place not during the Revolutionary war but rather in May 1814. (It is shown as the background to the 4 Turks and Caicos Island stamps). It ended when, after a long hard fight, and with the HINCHINBROOK leaking badly, the privateer made off to find easier prey.

I end with a mystery: the frigate GRAND TURK (Turks and Caicos 25c). Only one ship in the RN has borne this name - a sixth rate of 22 guns captured from the French

26 May 1745 and sold out of the Navy four years later. Although the ship depicted appears to fly a US Ensign, the USN can give me no information of a frigate of this name; Waddington's Studio (the designers) maintain a silence. Perhaps it is artistic licence or an over-enthusiastic reference to a privateer - who can tell?

Mike Wilson

POSTAL STATIONERY AND PICTURE POSTCARDS

(Continued from page 58, Bulletin No.90)

One general point to emerge from my table is that, in most places, used picture postcards must be considered at least as scarce and at least as desirable as used postal stationery. Very often cards, though used, have been mutilated at the back by the removal of the stamp; perhaps only half of the ones mentioned in my table have their original stamps intact.

St. Lucia deserves its own individual further comment. There is a good reason, no longer widely known, for postcards being fairly plentiful. The fact is that the major commercial activity of Castries at the early part of the century was to act as a coaling depot for merchant and Naval shipping. Ship after ship used to call there for the purpose (it was a staging-point for South Africa during the Boer War, for example) and the postcards reflect by their numbers this transient commercial traffic, rather than a large tourist industry.

Once the picture postcard had become firmly established, the use and distribution of postal stationery became much more patchy. Some colonies, like Jamaica, have consistently maintained a wide range and an abundant supply up to modern times; and, of course, there is no satisfactory privately produced rival to the widely used and very popular air letter form, or aerogramme. On the other hand colonies such as Turks & Caicos Is. have virtually discarded postal stationery from their armoury during the past 60 years. On any showing, once the reign of Queen Victoria was over, postal stationery ceased to be a prime feature of B.W.I. postal services and became only a by-product. This change can, in my opinion, be ascribed to the birth, development, and international acceptance of the picture postcard.

Simon Goldblatt

STAMPS OF THE FUTURE

I should like to suggest a new theme for members of the Circle: on which may evoke a response from some of the silent majority, the many members who have yet to contribute to these pages. There are many, of course, who are too busy with other things to do more than read and enjoy the Bulletin. Others are too diffident, feeling - quite wrongly - that their philatelic knowledge and experience may not be adequate for

the task. Never mind whether opportunities are too few, or resources are too slender, to build up a significant collection of issues of the past, and never mind if issues that are current are too plentiful, or have too little appeal - what about issues of the future? Here we can all start on level terms.

My point is that we can - we should - begin to take a lively interest in topics and themes for future stamp issues in the British West Indies. One has only to look through Caribbean issues of the past ten years or so to appreciate the difficulty which each State has to find appropriate subjects and personalities to portray on its stamps. Pick up a typical commemorative of 1970, and think to yourself, "What the Dickens? Members of the Circle, with their specialised philatelic interests, their knowledge of history, and their wide territorial spread, undoubtedly know of people and events eminently apt to figure on stamps of particular Caribbean islands, if only the idea or the reminder reaches the particular postal administration in time.

Let me give a typical instance. It would be legitimate and fitting at some time in the future for a stamp or stamps of the Virgin Islands to portray the Capitol in Washington, and its designer, WILLIAM THORNTON. The latter was a native of the islands, born in JOST VAN DYKE in May 1759. He spent his early years in the Colony, travelled to Scotland to take degrees in medicine, returned in TORTOLA at the age of 25, then three years later moved to Philadelphia and became an American citizen. It was while sojourning again in Tortola in the early 1790's that he decided to enter for the competition, which he ultimately won, to design the Capitol. His subsequent career as an architect, inventor, and civic administrator, would provide abundant scope to the stamp designer who wished to commemorate his life and work. Nationally known in the United States, and a man who perhaps has made a significant landmark in history, one wonders whether archives still exist in Roadtown (pace Jost Van Dyke itself:) to note his existence or passing*.

The year 1978 will be the 150th anniversary of his death, although there would of course be many subsequent opportunities to mark an anniversary of some event in his life and career.

Excursions of this kind into history would bring to light thousands of occasions and characters worthy of philatelic recognition; and each of the islands in the Caribbean has its treasury of historic connections - many of them perhaps of international import, but not yet of local significance. The 18th and 19th centuries present a richly-patterned kaleidoscope of aspiration and adventure, war and commerce, endeavour and achievement with confrontation and exploitation giving way to emancipation and enlightenment.

So come on, fellow philatelists! Start digging into the life of Nelson; the speeches of Pitt; the battles of De Grasse; the newspapers of the 1780's and 1880's; the novels of Charles Kingsley; the exhortations of Wilberforce; the genealogy of de Potignac; the travels of Trollope; dictionaries of Biography; campaign histories; antique maps; army lists; navy lists; parish records; insurance records; travel guides; time tables; encyclopaedias; indexes; and all the statistical and literary aftermath of West Indian life of the past.

I should like to see the imagination and initiative of individual members inspiring issues which fully reflect the character and the history of the country to which they

belong. Precedent, once established, could ripen into tradition, and we could find the Circle playing a valuable extra role in the field of Caribbean philately.

*To be fair to Tortola, its public library is quite well-stocked; and the family name of Thornton (like those of Pickering, Nottingham, Hedge, Lettsom, Claindeinch, and a handful of others) rings through the early history of the islands, which is a history rich in character and incident. How about, for example, the luckless W. Hodge who was in 1811 the first white man (to my knowledge) to be hanged for the murder of a slave? If this happening were of somewhat doubtful suitability to be noted on a commemorative stamp, one might find it hard to resist including in a portrait gallery of early denizens of the islands that sturdy 'post-man' from the Bight of Benin, whose evocative nickname was 'Jumper Jem'. Have I given somebody, somewhere, some ideas?

Simon Goldblatt

Joe Chin Aleong reports the following three handstruck marks which he has not seen reported before.



MISSSENT TO BAHAMAS



BAHAMAS Straight line "MISSSENT TO HAHAMAS" (51mm. long by 4½mm. high) in black on cover in St. Lucia. Cover backstamped Nassau, 29 April, 1948 and Castries, 6 May, 1948.

BARBADOS Oval "GENERAL POST OFFICE/CROWN/BARBADOS B.W.I." (36mm. x 26mm.) struck in purple on registered cover in Trinidad, June 19, 1900.

NEVIS "OFFICIAL PAID/NEVIS" c.d.s. for 23 Nov, 1946.

DOMINICA

In response to the several requests for details of Dominica censor marks and labels the most recent that of Anthony Shepherd in the March 1976 Bulletin, I have one solitary cover.

It is airmail to England, postmarked Roseau 6 March 1945, 2/6½d rate, bearing SG.99 and 107, and has been opened and resealed with a "P.C.90" label with multiple inscription "CROWN/OPENED BY/EXAMINER/7304" There is no obvious means of deciding whether the label was affixed in Dominica or elsewhere.

Michael Medlicott

JAMAICA

A few weeks ago a query arose concerning a copy of the Jamaica 1938 K.G.VI ½d. sideways wmk. SG.121a. For some years after the variety was first listed in the Part I Catalogue there was a footnote in the catalogue to the effect that there was only one copy, a used single, known. This may well still be the case, although the footnote no longer appears in the catalogue. Enquiries have yet to reveal anyone who has heard of a copy coming up for sale.

The date of usage of the copy in question is sometime in 1950, approximately the same time of issue of the Nigeria comb perf. 1/3d. sideways wmk. SG.57b., of which two or three copies have been recorded, all used. It looks as if the explanation may well be a very small stock of paper wrongly cut, but even so it is very difficult to explain the great rarity of both the Jamaica and the Nigeria if this is the reason for their existence.

We should welcome the views of members. Can this theory be confirmed or is there an alternative solution?

Editor

A “WAR STAMP” FORGERY?

I have a rather unusual “WAR STAMP” overprint on a George V issue of Jamaica. The odd feature is that the letters are 2½mm. high with the words in two lines spaced 2mm. apart. “WAR” and “STAMP” are 7mm. and 12mm. long respectively and the quality of the printing is not particularly good. The stamp is postmarked February (9th?), 1917.

I think the overprint may well be a forgery, but the views of other members would be appreciated.

Malcolm Mattick

On page 34 of the June, 1976 bulletin, Graeme Pullar seeks information on the perforation varieties of the 1938-52 2d. value.

The 12.9 x 13.1 perforation is most probably from either the January 1952 or March 1953 releases for each of which I have single copies with this perforation. While it is uncatalogued it is, in fact, a variety known to KGVI specialists.

The “January 1952” release was printed during the period 29.6.51 to 27.8.52 and amounted to nearly 20 million stamps. It is believed to have been from a combination of frame plates 8, 9, 10 and 11 and centre plate 4 (and perhaps 5).

The “March 1953” release was printed during the period 9.3.53 to 21.10.53 and amounted to nearly 23 million stamps. Frame plates are believed to be (possibly) 10 and 11 with centre plates 4 and 5.

H.A.R. James

Mr. James is collaborating with Frank Saunders of the King George VI. Collectors Society on a full study of Jamaica KG.VI. stamps and research into official archives is expected to clarify the combination of plates used for each printing. If any member has information on dated plate blocks of any Jamaica KG.VI. material or relevant items they may wish to dispose of would they please get in touch with Mr. James.

Editor

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

7th February 1938. Fiscal stamp postally used.

One copy is clearly postmarked San Fernando, 7th 1938 (Fig.1) the familiar cds of the time.

It would be interesting to know if this 4c value was authorised for postage use and if other copies so used are known.



John de Vries

21st. OCTOBER 1915. NORMAL ISSUE WITH AUTHORISED SURCHARGE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE RED CROSS.

During a period of thirty years or more Catalogues mention for SG.174 three varieties and their indicated sheet positions.

Recent findings appear to reveal the original study and note of varieties by Catalogue Editors is perhaps questionable.

As a result of my initial findings it may be possible to confirm the significant varieties.

My limited research has included the use of large blocks, part panes, gutters and margins from five sheets only. These items have however enabled reconstruction of both right and left panes to near completion.

For this Surcharge the printing characteristics of the figures in the setting appear constant when both over and under inking has occurred. The characteristics (varieties) appear to have been as a result of the quality of transfer in setting each multiple and lack of durability of whatever printing electro was used.

I show drawings representing the Surcharge characteristics of possible significance and their sheet positions.

It will be noted SG.174b appears no less than eight times on the left pane and fourteen times on the right pane. Possibly of similar status is SG.174c. Five blocks of twelve (4 x 3) show a 'broken 0' in '10' variety' appears on stamp No.51 Right Pane.

The variety SG.174a is most prominent, the Red Cross it's Outline in Black are clearly spaced 2mm to the right of the Surcharge date (stamp No.11 right pane).




Of special interest a find and reconstruction, right pane, column three, Double Surcharge. In this instance it is as a result of a Kiss Print on the one whole column. The doubling I mention effects the figures of the date only. This type of double Surcharge can occasionally be found effecting complete rows of other Surcharged stamps of the 1915-18 era.

In view of my not having completed 19 stamps of the 120 multiples, can any members supply noteworthy details of the items I have not seen?

John de Vries



Continued overleaf

LEFT PANE 59 174.

BROKEN '5' TOP 15.	BROKEN '2' TOP 21.		'2' SERIF JOINED. 21.		
			BROKEN '3' TOP 21.		
FORKED FOOT '1' 15.	BLOCKED '2' FORKED FOOT '1' 21. 15.	FORKED FOOT '1' 15.			
					BROKEN CROSS S.W.  15. BRKN'S TOP
FORKED FOOT '1' 15.					 BROKEN CROSS S.W.
	BROKEN '2' BASE. BROKEN '1' IN '5' 21. 15.				
NOT SEEN*				FORKED FOOT '1' 15.	BROKEN '2' BASE. FORKED '1' FOOT '1' 21. 15.
NOT SEEN*					FORKED FOOT '1' 15.
FORKED FOOT '1' 15.	NOT SEEN*		SLASH ON '0' 20.	 BROKEN CROSS N.E.	

NOT SEEN* IN IDENTIFIABLE MULTIPLE.

RIGHT PANE SG 174.

THREE SLASHES ON 'O'	'O' AFTER TEN.			NOT SEEN †	
10.	10.			NOT SEEN †	
FORKED FOOT 'I'	FORKED FOOT 'I'	FORKED FOOT 'I'	FORKED FOOT 'I'	SG 174a WITH FORKED FOOT 'I'	
15.	15.	15.	15.	15.	
 STOP ABOVE					'O' AFTER TEN.
21. '2'					10.
SPUR IN '2'	KU FOR 'O' IN TEN	SLASH ON '2' FORKED FOOT 'I'	SLASH ON 'I' FORKED FOOT 'I'	BLURRED '2' SLASH ON 'I'	SLASH ON 'I'
21.	10.	21. 15.	21. 15.	21.	15.
	FORKED FOOT 'I'	SLASH ON 'I' FORKED FOOT 'I'	FORKED FOOT 'I'		NO SERIF ON 'I' FORKED FOOT 'I'
	15.	21. 15.	15.		21. 15.
HOOK FOR SERIF ON 'I'		PERIOD AFTER '5'			TWO BROKEN ONES.
15.		5.			10. 25.
	IRREGULAR '5'	STOP ABOVE '5'		NOT SEEN †	
	15.	15.		NOT SEEN †	
JOINED AND BLOCKED '8'	FORKED FOOT 'I'	FORKED FOOT 'I'	FORKED FOOT 'I'	NOT SEEN †	
18.	15.	15.	15.	NOT SEEN †	
		SG 174c.		NOT SEEN †	
		BROKEN 'O'		NOT SEEN †	
		10.		NOT SEEN †	
'C' AFTER TEN. BROKEN 'I'		 BROKEN CROSS S.W.		NOT SEEN †	
10.				NOT SEEN †	

NOT SEEN † IN IDENTIFIABLE MULTIPLE.

Further information on the 9.10.16 Red Cross Surcharge.

With the exception of the major variety I mention namely stamp No. 19 left pane (Bulletin 89, page 42), I can confirm Bill Collins' findings (Bulletin 90, page 66).

Further research (aided by Vincent Duggleby) has revealed why there is found considerable variation in the printing quality of certain of the surcharges for the period I mention.

A Trinidad Postmaster's letter dated 7th November 1917, reproduced in the West End Philatelist, Feb. 1918, confirms the early surcharges were made from STONE multiples and Lithograph printed at Trinidad.

In view of the indicated number of sheets surcharge printed, the printing method employed, then the printing quality on sheets of stamps can come as no surprise. The STONE multiples would have been subject to wear and tear familiar to this printing technique.

Stamp number 19 however appears to warrant special interest. If as Bill Collins indicates he has a NORMAL spaced surcharge, then this might indicate multiple replacements may have taken place during the batch printing operation.

Possibly the stone multiple gave out and its unacceptable printing quality dictated this multiple replacement.

John de Vries

VIRGIN ISLANDS

The notes contributed in Bulletin 71 by Simon Goldblatt, and in Bulletin 73 by R.C. Coleman, on the subject of Virgin Islands sub-offices, indicate firstly the closure of East End in February 1971, and secondly that no modern cds has been observed from that Office. Among a small number of V.I. covers recently acquired from a certain well known dealer on the North side of the Strand is a modern cover, obviously philatelic, postmarked East End. It bears, back and front, a 23.5mm cds inscribed "EAST END/(ASTERISK)/JU 9/71/TORTOLA V.1." The reverse bears a double ellipse inscribed "POSTMASTER/(CROWN)/ VIRGIN ISLANDS", the outer ellipse itself being doubled. This cover postdates Mr. Coleman's closure date and is, incidentally, addressed (self addressed?) to a BWISC member, Mr. R Ward, as is a similar cover cancelled with a similar cds inscribed "NORTH SOUND/(ASTERISK)/ JU 17/71/VIRGIN GORDA V.1."

Michael Medlicott

GEORGE V ½d. GREEN SG.80 (USED). A RARETY?

When I assert, as I do from time to time, that SG.80 (the Geo. V King's Head ½d, script watermark) is as rare used as any catalogued standard stamp of the country, the assertion is usually received with polite, but pitying, scepticism. Can it, however, be justified by examination of the facts? The relevant dates provide a substantial clue. The ½d stamp in question, together with its companion 1d. value, was printed in the latter part of 1921. By this date it was of course normal practice for the Crown Agents to handle and distribute a quantity of freshly printed stamps in London, independently

of their supply to the Colony. Though I have not checked this at source, I have no doubt that a few thousand of each of these two values were dealt with in this way, which accounts for the ease with which either can be found in unused condition. A 'McMichael' cover in my possession, franked with a block of four of the 1d. value, posted from West End, Tortola, on 19.9.21, is clear evidence of the practice, since the two values did not reach the Colony itself for possible sale to the public, until November, 1921. (Perhaps somebody will check the actual date, and the quantity, which from recollection was 6,000 of each value.) I regard this, though philatelic, as an unusual and rather useful example of a pre-F.D.C.

The next ascertainable date is that at some time in February 1922 stamps of the new design reached Tortola - again the actual date can no doubt be found in the records. One sees stamps of the new issue used from early in 1922, and I should expect that they promptly replaced the old issues, which were thereupon withdrawn.

I say withdrawn: the question which interests me is whether the script ½d ever came, for practical purposes, to be issued in the Colony. It would certainly be the case at the time when the script consignment reached Tortola that some stocks were still in hand because this was one postal administration which had never run out of a necessary value: its only provisional up to that date, the 4d on 1/- of 1888, had been produced to use up old stocks of the 1/- value, which must by then have seemed as if they were going to last for ever. At any rate, there would have been no obvious reason in November 1921 for the new SCA printing to "leap-frog" existing MCA stocks; and it is possible that by February 1922 it had hardly been necessary, if at all, to issue and use the script ½d. I am speculating now, though again important information could be culled from Crown Agents' records; if unused stocks were withdrawn, and remainders then destroyed, one has all the conditions appropriate to create a real rarity. In that case almost the only used examples would be London - distributed copies, used artificially and philatelically in the Colony.

More than anything, one needs evidence of dated postmarks. Can members report on the following:-

- (1) copies of the SCA ½d, bearing any legible date;
- (2) copies of the MCA ½d bearing dates after mid-November 1921;
- (3) copies of the new-design ½d, SG.86, bearing dates before July 1922.

In this instance my own resources are wholly inadequate, as I have no ½d. stamp plainly dated late 1921 or early 1922. Of only two used copies of SG.80, one has so little postmark as possibly not to have been used at all, and the other is dated 25.9.22, along with other values presumed to have come from a typical philatelic cover.

This insignificant ½d. stamp seems to deserve serious investigation.

Simon Goldblatt

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Re: "UNIDENTIFIED POSTMARKS"

Members must forgive the story I am about to relate, at most because there is no basis of fact with regard to BWI postmark use. However, one sometimes finds that

other philatelic interests occasionally contribute to better understanding these exasperating knowledge gaps readily recognised in study group bulletins and journals.

It cannot be doubted that many members have contributed much to the facts on BWI postmark use and undoubtedly many painstaking hours, days and years of effort have gone into their proven and thorough contributions.

But how often is there seen ‘Has anyone identified this postmark’, ‘I’ve found this’, etc. (I for one find these delightful) and of course a dozen or more of these enquiries continue to remain unidentified.

For those members who take a transient interest in postmarks on single stamps, then I feel sure that as their accumulation grows, they readily recognise these unusual items that are not among the known published facts.

So, let me return to a parallel and some suggested possible reasons for these unidentified postmarks:-

During a recent research project on our Local Post Office, I had accumulated, and set out, all to hand postmarks on post cards to 1911 with the then intention of a Local Philatelic Society Display.

As an aid to the research (among others) I sought out the longest serving member of the Post Office, who, opinion had it, was the most knowledgeable on past local affairs. A few telephone calls and my contact readily agreed to pay me a visit and the memorable results went something like this;

“Why does the KE VII ppc, posted in London 1907, also have the stamp cancelled by the 1844 local numeral instrument?” “Oh you’ve got one of these have you? I still have that in my drawer at work. Look - the London cancel missed the stamp. When we received the item, according to the P.O. regulations the stamp must be cancelled. Most of the then current double cds would be in the Sorting Office, so we would cancel the stamp with the nearest instrument to hand”. “That’s interesting”, was about all I could muster.

“What about this one? Late use of this and this receiving mark for cancelling”. A pause for breath and before I could continue my guest retorts “You stamp collectors”. Detecting a note of aggression I immediately thought I had upset the man. “You always look for logical, neat and tidy answers, and all too frequently you forget to comprehend how the P.O. actually worked for the times’. He then produced a copy list of the town directory P.O. collections and dispatches 1902. “I’ve seen that” I said. “Never mind what you saw, let me explain what really happened in the Sorting Office. Take the last of the day’s collections at 7.30 p.m. Mail would arrive in the office from about 7.40, we would sort, cancel, bag up and then get the bags to the station before the 8 p.m. train was due to leave. Do you know we received the bulk of the day’s items in the last post? In 1900 we handled 450,000 items a week. At Christmas the traffic of items was at its peak”. With a smile of nostalgic days he said “I remember when we were busy, before the first hand operated machine, a man would cancel one hundred items a minute. We sometimes used every instrument in the building”. He continued proudly, “Each day’s collections were always despatched. Only those that were not legible remained”.

Scrutinising another example he says “This one here, that style was normally only in use by counter clerks”. We moved on “What about this? I’ve looked at thousands and this only appears to occur in 1906”. Well, probably a temporary instrument. When the rush was on an instrument occasionally dropped in a bag and was despatched with

the mail, so until a new one was supplied a temporary would be used". "I see" which again is about all I managed to contribute. "Those two there, are the same style, but one is slightly bigger. We probably lost the first one in a bag and one is the replacement". Gaining slight confidence "I suppose this French and this Swiss cancel across the stamps on these are the same result of them receiving unfranked stamps?". "Most probably if they bothered. As you have explained and proven, we, the Post Office that is, would occasionally have missed cancelling an individual item prior to despatch". He lifts up a pile of postcards, fans them like a pack of cards in the hand and says "We did them like this" as he lays them down like a spread deck of cards. If two were stuck together then one was missed. You must remember this method was used due to the enormous volume of work in the Sorting Office".

"Do you like this?" Offering my treasured local item, an unusually named Branch Office cancel of 1908. "That was illegal" he snapped. "That branch office was never authorised to cancel that sort of mail. Parcels and Registered Letters only. Look what the writer says down the side of the card?" Guiltily I read "Hope you like the Postmark". Warmly my guest adds "Someone in the Branch Office did a philatelist of the time a favour". The hours had passed and I clearly appreciated someone from my local Post Office had equally done me a favour.

I hope members find, as I have, that this brief insight into a Post Office's instrument's use may part satisfy those items thought to be purported bogus cancels, late use, unidentified and previously considered not in use, etc. Unidentified postmarks may in fact have rational answers that only wider horizons of Philatelic Knowledge will eventually reveal their true identity.

John de Vries

NEWS ROUNDUP

Two major awards went to Study Circle members at "HAFNIA 76", the international stamp exhibition held in Copenhagen last August. In the Court of Honour, a courtesy award was made to John B. Marriott for classic Trinidad and in the general class a gold medal and a special award went to Frank Deakin for Barbados 1698-1970. Four more of our members were successful at this year's British Philatelic Exhibition. Silver Gilt medals were awarded to Stephen Sugarman for Dominica, Bert Latham for Jamaica Postal History and Stirling Baker for War Stamp Overprints of Jamaica, whilst a silver medal went to Mrs. Stella Pearse for Antigua Postal History (mid-eighteenth century). In addition to the above medals the special B.P.E. award and the B.C.P.S.G. medal went to Stirling Baker and Bert Latham respectively.

Frank Deakin, who as reported above won a gold medal and special award at "HAFNIA 76", was looking forward with pleasure to the arrival of his awards, but his pleasure soon turned to indignation when the postman demanded £6.17 Customs due. Mr. Deakin at first refused to pay the money and the awards were returned to the Post Office where they remained until payment was made under protest. Fortunately we are

able to report a happy ending for Frank has been promised a refund and has been told that all awards for merit are exempt and that duty was charged by mistake because the Danish inscription for “stamp exhibition” on the package was not understood.

Bob Topaz paid a visit to the U.K. last September in order to attend the Robson Lowe Sale of “V.N.F. Surtees Jamaica Collection”. Whilst here Bob found time for an overnight visit to Leeds where he renewed old acquaintances and joined Roses P.S. members in presenting a “Jamaican Cavalcade” at their meeting on September 18th.

May we draw members’ attention to the immediate increase in the price of back issues of the Bulletin and “Cordex” binders and to note that all orders for these should now be addressed to the Editor. There are now only a few copies left of Bulletins 1-7 and other early issues prior to No. 53 so enquiries in the first instance would be appreciated. We would add the “Cordex” binders are still an inexpensive way of keeping and preserving your Bulletins and that one binder will house five years issues.

With the British Philatelic Exhibition being held a few weeks earlier than usual this year it seemed a good idea to make it the venue for our Autumn meeting. That the meeting was a great success is beyond doubt with the attendance well above average. In addition to seeing a fine display of Antigua by Victor Toeg we also had the opportunity of viewing the award winning exhibition entries of a number of our members. It was also our pleasure to welcome new members Michael Rego and Michael Swindells. After the meeting a diligent search of the dealers’ stands proved that it is still possible to pick up fine material of one’s chosen country.

Tony Shepherd tells us that the recent Roses publication “West Indies Civil Censorship Devices in World War II”, reviewed in the Bulletin last September, has sold all its first printing and that a further 100 copies have been ordered.

We have recently been advised that the new address of the Hon. Librarian of the National Philatelic Society is 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EB (Room 4 on the Third Floor of the National Liberal Club).

Once again, as auction time approaches, we make our usual appeal for covers, stamps and literature. Good material will find a ready market and most, if not all, vendors have been more than satisfied with their result.

This year we are introducing limit bidding in order that members may, if they wish, aim for a larger number of lots and at the same time keep to the limit of their spending. All that you will have to do is to mark your overall limit in the space provided on the bid form and list your bids in order of preference.

Over the past nine months we have been in the fortunate position of having sufficient articles in hand for each Bulletin, but such is no longer the case. Items are now urgently required for next March onwards. It is time consuming to write to various members so please see what you can do. That article would make a fine Christmas present for the Editor. With best wishes for 1977.

Michael Sheppard

B.W.I. AUCTION No.4

1. Terms and conditions will be the same as those for our previous auctions (i.e. standard).
2. Sale commission charged to the seller will be:-
 - On each lot sold 10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, thereafter 10%.
 - On each unsold lot, 10p.
 - On each lot withdrawn by the seller, sale commission on 75% of estimated value.
 - On each lot unsold through failing to reach the seller's reserve, sale commission on the reserve price.
3. Postal bidders may lay down an overall limit for their bids and also indicate an order of preference.
4. The catalogue will be sent to home members with the March, 1977 Bulletin and under separate cover to overseas members.
5. Postal viewing will not be possible, but it is expected that the same viewing facilities as last time will be available. In certain circumstances it will be possible to send a "xerox" providing sufficient funds are sent to cover cost of "xerox" and postage. (12p home and 17p overseas).
6. The Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.
7. All correspondence please to Michael Sheppard.
8. Material to be included in the catalogue may be sent from the 1st December, 1976 and must reach Michael Sheppard by January 31st, 1977 at latest.

INDEX FOR THE BULLETIN

It has become increasingly apparent for some time now that an index is required for the Study Circle's Bulletin. The Bulletin is fast approaching its one hundredth issue and in order that members should be able to get the maximum use and benefit out of our quarterly publication Simon Goldblatt and I are about to start the preparation of an index which will take some time but we feel sure that it will be useful. We hope that the index when ready will be printed and sold to members by the Study Circle.

E.V. Toeg

BULLETINS AND STUDY PAPERS

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No.53 (June, 1976) are obtainable from the Hon. Editor as follows:

Bulletins Nos. 1-7 (Reprint in one cover)	£1.50
Bulletins per copy	60p
'Cordex' Instantaneous Self-Binders each holding 20 issues	£1.50
Issues containing notes on specific colonies gladly supplied where available.	
Montserrat. L.E. Britnor	£2.00
The History of the Sailing Packets to the W. Indies.	
L.E. Britnor (U.K. & Europe)	£7.00
	(U.S.A. etc.) £7.50

Note: Prices include postage, packing and V.A.T. where applicable.

OPINIONS SERVICE (Home Members only)

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 75p per stamp or cover is charged.* Members wishing to take advantage of this service should send the stamp(s) or cover(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a remittance for the appropriate fee together with an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the item(s) within fourteen days. All stamps or covers submitted are accepted entirely at the sender's risk and neither the Circle nor any of its members, collectively or individually, can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any item or for any opinion expressed.

*In instances where it is necessary to consult more than one specialist additional postage will be charged to the sender.

NEW MEMBERS

SWEET R. M. c/o Monsterrat Philatelic Bureau, GPO Plymouth, Montserrat, West Indies.

Interest: Not known.

SWINDELLS, Michael, Avoncliffe, Homefield Close, Saltford, Bristol, BS18 3EF

Interest: Barbados

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DRASSLER, Norman, Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323, U.S.A.

BROOKS, Rev. Peter, 35 Carr Rd., Nelson, Lancs., BB9 7JS

BULLIVANT, B. A., Marnixlaan 56, B-1900 Overijse, Belgium.

DITCh, R. D., 25, Hillbrow Rd., Ashford, Kent.

PULLEY, G. F., 2, Rimes Close, Kinston Bagpuize, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 5AL.

CHANGE OF INTERESTS

RICKSECKER, C.G. Now specialises in stamps, cancellations and postal history of Leeward Islands, Particularly St. Kitts.

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